

**State Planning Office  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
Week ending February 8, 2008**

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Work session on SPO budget**

February 8, 2008 – 1:00 PM – Room 216, Cross Office Building.

The Legislature's State and Local Government Committee will hold a work session on SPO's budget.

Contact: Tony VanDenBossche at 287-1474 or [tony.vandenbossche@maine.gov](mailto:tony.vandenbossche@maine.gov)

**Public Hearing on the Methodology for Identification of Regional Service Centers, Ch. 220**

February 13, 2008 - 3:00 PM - *Pine State Arboretum, Augusta*

The State Planning Office is proposing to amend Chapter 220, the rule it uses to identify municipalities serving as regional service centers in accordance with 30-A MRSA §4301, sub §14-A. If you are unable to attend the public hearing and would like to comment, you may submit comments in writing (no e-mail) to Donna Bradstreet at State Planning Office 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 before February 25, 2008.

Contact: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5649 or [donna.bradstreet@maine.gov](mailto:donna.bradstreet@maine.gov)

[Proposed Changes to Chapter 220](#)

**Land & Water Resources Council**

February 14, 2008 - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM *State Planning Office, 184 State Street, Augusta*  
Quarterly Meeting

Contact: Aline Lachance at 287-1485 or [aline.lachance@maine.gov](mailto:aline.lachance@maine.gov)

**Maine Commission for Community Service Board Meeting**

February 15, 2008 - 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM *Cross Office Building, Room 105, Augusta*

Regular Business meeting for the Commission. Open to the public. Agenda is posted under "Headquarter Happenings" at (<http://www.maineservicecommission.gov/> ).

Contact: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5649 or [donna.bradstreet@maine.gov](mailto:donna.bradstreet@maine.gov)

**DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**BRED committee gives favorable review to uniform building code proposal.** The state agency Resolve 46 committee presented their [recommendations report](#) and [implementation plan](#) to the Business Research and Economic Development (BRED) Committee on January 31, 2008. The BRED Committee decided to move forward with the committee's recommendations. Statutory language will be forthcoming and a public hearing will be scheduled by the BRED Committee in the near future. Please consult the State Legislature's website for the schedule of public hearings: at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Documents/hearing/ANPHFrame.htm>

**CONTACT:** Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov) or Amy Cole-Ives at 287-8052 or [amy.cole-ives@maine.gov](mailto:amy.cole-ives@maine.gov)

## **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Solid waste reports due.** Municipal annual solid waste reports for calendar year 2007 are due to the State Planning Office. Forms and instructions are available on-line at: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/data/index.htm>. SPO uses the data from these reports to help municipalities make program improvements, to direct state resources, to calculate the statewide recycling rate, and to help project future disposal capacity. **CONTACT:** George MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)

## **LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM**

The Land for Maine's Future Program recently completed work on the following projects:

**HEIGHT OF LAND, Township D, Franklin County.** The viewshed looking west from the Height of Land on Route 17 has long been known as one of Maine's finest. Protection of this 500± acre parcel which lies between the Appalachian Trail Corridor and lands of the Maine Department of Conservation's Four Ponds unit was a high priority for the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (<http://www.rlht.org/>). In addition to preserving the viewshed and providing connectivity between other conservation lands, this acquisition will also protect and guarantee angler's access to Bemis Stream.

**SEBAGO HEADWATERS PRESERVE, Verrill parcel, Bridgton, Cumberland County.**

The Verrill acquisition is the fifth and final parcel to complete the Sebago Headwaters Preserve project, which has added 633 acres to the area that surrounds Lakes Environmental Association's Bridgton's Holt Pond Preserve (see <http://www.minelakes.org/trailmap.htm>) and Loon Echo Land Trust's Bald Pate Preserve (see [http://www.loonecholandtrust.org/baldpate\\_map\\_final\\_2007.pdf](http://www.loonecholandtrust.org/baldpate_map_final_2007.pdf)). This project was a collaborative between Loon Echo Land Trust and the Lakes Environmental Association.



**BALD and RAGGED MOUNTAINS PROJECT, Wright parcel, Hope, Knox County.**

The Camden-based Coastal Mountains Land Trust has been working with the town of Camden and the Georges River Land Trust to protect the lands surrounding the summits of Bald and Ragged mountains, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> highest summits on the east coast of the US (see [http://www.coastalmountains.org/conserved\\_land/preserves/bald\\_mountain.html](http://www.coastalmountains.org/conserved_land/preserves/bald_mountain.html)). The Wright parcel is the fourth and final acquisition in the current phase of the project. The effort adds significantly to the regional quality of life and the recreational vitality of the area. The Wright parcel will provide new access to the very popular Highland Trail on the western slope of Bald Mountain.

**BLANDINGS TATNIC TURTLE CORRIDOR, Allen parcels, South Berwick, York County.**

The 98± acre Allen parcels are a part of the Greater Mount Agamenticus project area, the largest unfragmented coastal forest between southern New Jersey and Acadia National Park. (For more information about the ecological significance of the Mount Agamenticus Area see:

[http://www.mainenaturalareas.org/docs/program\\_activities/links/Landtrust/MtAgamenticus.pdf](http://www.mainenaturalareas.org/docs/program_activities/links/Landtrust/MtAgamenticus.pdf)) The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife acquired the Allen parcel to protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife habitat, build connectivity between conservation holdings and to enhance low impact public recreational opportunities in the Mount Agamenticus/Tatnic region. The property is located within an area of statewide ecological significance that is known to harbor one of Maine's most robust populations of Blandings turtles. Ribbon snakes and spotted turtles have also been found in the area.

**BRADBURY- PINELAND CORRIDOR PROJECT, Sweetser parcel, Pownal, Cumberland County.** The Pownal Land Trust has been working for several years to build trail connections between the Bradbury Mountain State Park in Pownal and the Pineland Preserve. The Sweetser acquisition was acquired to guarantee an existing snowmobile trail. The whole of this project also includes lands for a separate pedestrian trail link as well as several other additions to the Bradbury Mountain State Park.

**JASPER BEACH, Machiasport, Washington County.** LMF partnered with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to enable the Town of Machiasport to acquire this 28± acre parcel with over 900 feet of beach frontage as well as frontage on an adjacent salt marsh. Jasper Beach, which is best known for its polished cobbled surface, has long been a favorite regional resource. This parcel abuts the town-owned access path to the beach. The acquisition of this parcel has been part of the Town of Machiasport's comprehensive plan for some time.

**CONTACT:** Steve Brooke at 287-6736 or [Steve Brooke](#) or Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [Tim Glidden](#).

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY**

**Heating fuel prices drop again.** The Office of Energy Independence and Security February 4, 2008, survey of home heating oil prices found the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be down by \$.01 since the last week at \$3.21 per gallon and \$.94 higher than last year at this time. The price of WTI crude oil is dropped to \$88.96 per barrel. This is a major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil. The statewide kerosene price average is down by \$0.01 since last week at \$3.63 per gallon and \$.96 higher than last year at this time. Today's propane price survey found the statewide average to be \$2.96 per gallon which is the same as last week and \$0.60 higher than last year at this time. This average price for propane represents the price per gallon for a 600-800 gallon domestic heating application. The Office conducts a weekly survey of home heating oil, kerosene, and propane prices from November through March. For more information:

<http://www.maineenergyinfo.com/oil/index.html>. **CONTACT:** Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov)